

**REMARKS**

By the present amendment, claim 24 has been amended to recite a pharmaceutical additive, so that the composition is in a form suitable for administration to humans. Further, new claims 32-50 have been added.

Support for the added recitations is found in the original application, in particular on pages 6-8 of the specification (claims 24 and 32-40 and 45) and original claims 3-6, 19, 20, and 15 (claims 41-44 and 46-50).

Claims 24 and 32-50 are pending in the present application. Claims 24 and 34 are the only independent claims.

In the Office Action, claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by either of Taniguchi et al., J. Immuno. Meth., 1997, 206:107-113 ("Taniguchi") and US 4,411,993 to Gillis ("Gillis"). It is alleged in the Office Action that Taniguchi discloses a medium containing an IL-18 inhibitor and Gillis discloses a medium containing an IL-2 inhibitor.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested. Taniguchi and Gillis use IL inhibitors to test samples extracted to a living body, but the IL inhibitors are not intended to be administered to humans and they are not formed into a suitable pharmaceutical composition. Thus, Taniguchi and Gillis fail to teach or suggest a composition comprising at least one of an interleukin 18 inhibitor and/or an interleukin 2 inhibitor, and a pharmaceutical additive, so that the composition is in a form suitable for administration to humans, as recited in present claim 24. Therefore, present claim 24, and the claims dependent directly or indirectly

thereon, are not anticipated by any of Taniguchi and Gillis, and not obvious over these references taken alone or in any combination.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the rejection should be withdrawn.

In addition, with respect to present claim 34 and the claims dependent directly or indirectly thereon, it is submitted that Taniguchi and Gillis also fail to teach or suggest a composition comprising at least one of an isolated, purified, or non-naturally occurring interleukin 18 inhibitor and/or an isolated, purified, or non-naturally occurring interleukin 2 inhibitor, as recited in present claim 34. Therefore, present claim 34, and the claims dependent directly or indirectly thereon, are not anticipated by any of Taniguchi and Gillis, and not obvious over these references taken alone or in any combination.

Next, in the Office Action, claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being directed to non-patentable subject matter. It is alleged in the Office Action that the composition covers living body compositions that naturally include IL inhibitors.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested. Present claim 24 is directed to a composition comprising at least one of an interleukin 18 inhibitor and/or an interleukin 2 inhibitor, and a pharmaceutical additive, so that the composition is in a form suitable for administration to humans, as recited in present claim 24. This composition clearly does not include natural living body compositions that naturally include IL inhibitors. Therefore, present claim 24 is directed to patentable subject matter.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the rejection should be withdrawn.

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In addition, with respect to present claim 34, it is submitted that a composition comprising at least one of an isolated, purified, or non-naturally occurring interleukin 18 inhibitor and/or an isolated, purified, or non-naturally occurring interleukin 2 inhibitor, as recited in present claim 34, also clearly excludes natural living body compositions that naturally include IL inhibitors. Therefore, present claim 34 is also directed to patentable subject matter.

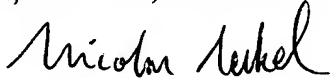
In conclusion, the invention as presently claimed is patentable. It is believed that the claims are in allowable condition and a notice to that effect is earnestly requested.

If there is, in the Examiner's opinion, any outstanding issue and such issue may be resolved by means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of the response period. Please charge the fee for such extension and any other fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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